



“For the Edification of the Church”

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Address at the Inauguration of the Offices
of the Holy Metropolis of Oropos and Phyle
and of the St. Cyprian Guild

Ano Liosia, Greece, September 14/27, 2014

Vision and Hope A Qualitative Enhancement at Every Level Self-Understanding and Re-Evangelization

† Metropolitan Cyprian
of Oropos and Phyle

Holy Hierarchs;

Venerable Fathers and Mothers;

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Honorable Representatives of the Local Government;

Beloved Children in the Lord:



Glory to God for all things! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! Holy Trinity, glory to Thee!

Through the prayers of our ever-memorable Guide, Metropolitan Cyprian († May 17, 2013), our Lord, in His love for mankind, has vouchsafed us this evening to add yet another stone to the foundation of the edifice of our Holy Metropolis.

We already have three pillars upon which the vision of our Metropolis is based and by means of which it is advanced: the “St. Philaret” and the “St. Cyprian” Guilds, the Workshop for Ecclesiastical Iconography, and now our offices.

The new activities of our Metropolis, of which the inauguration of our offices is a token, serve to remind the local community and beyond that it has a vision and hope; it is not a *static organization*, nor is it inclined to participate in the cultivation of a *spirit of “doom and gloom” and inertia*.

The presence of our newly established Metropolis, by way of its spiritual and social organizations, should constitute a *true response* to the *multifaceted crisis* that has struck our blessed homeland in sundry ways.

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Genuine Shepherds should demonstrate, here and now, in space and in time, that the things being said against the Church, directly or indirectly, in writing or orally, constitute a *terrible misconception* of the identity of the Church.

The True Orthodox Church is not a place that cultivates mere *conservatism*, veiled in *fine narratives dwelling on the past*; it is not a place that contents itself with *pseudo-humanistic knowledge and action* or a *horizontal this-worldliness*.

The living and vivifying presence of Orthodoxy is unique, inestimable, and momentous: it is the *source of the self-understanding* of our people, and a *workshop for the re-evangelization* not only of our nation, but of the world at large.

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It is the source of our spiritual and national self-understanding especially now, when the fierce winds of *globalization* are sweeping away every form of *cultural self-definition*.

The Truth of the Faith, the experience of such in our lives, and the genuine sociability inherent therein; the Person as an Image of God; the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the Orthodox ethos; martyrdom and witness; the Cross of self-sacrifice and the Gospel of love; our Theanthropic civilization; our language, and our sacred customs—these all are preserved unadulterated in the Sacred Ark of True Orthodoxy and strengthen our spiritual and national self-understanding.

Source, moreover, means *life*; it means dynamism and impetus; it means vision and hope; it means unsleeping concern; it means

watchfulness; it means a self-sacrificial disposition.

This vitality serves as a constant inducement to *re-evangelization* and *re-catechism*; to an arduous effort to delve into the sources of our civilization and of our nation; to study our Hellenic Orthodox culture; to become witnesses to the wisdom and holiness of our fathers and forefathers; to work together creatively and enthusiastically, with *vision* and *hope*, so as to awaken whatever **good**, whatever **beautiful**, and whatever **holy** things are contained within our Theanthropic civilization.

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With these thoughts, we inaugurate on this day a new period for a *qualitative enhancement at every level*, hearkening to the call of God, to the call of the Church, to the call of our nation, to the call of our people, and to the call of history.

I glorify and give thanks to God; I express my heartfelt gratitude



to all of my blessed coworkers and to all those who have toiled, such that on this day we are baptized anew into a *common vision*, a *common hope*, a stimulus of our *self-understanding* and an incentive to *re-evangelization*.

This entire multidimensional effort has been placed under the protection of the Most Blessed *Theotokos*, the **Surety of Sinners**, to whom the Church at our Metropolitan's center, in the Municipality of Ano Liosia, will be dedicated.

May the Grace and Power of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, the Guidance and Shelter of the *Theotokos*, the intercessions of all the Saints, and the prayers of your love be our constant companions on our spiritual voyage, to the glory of the Holy Trinity.

I thank you for your presence, your support, your trust, and your love.

May God be with you!

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TO GOD BE GLORY AND THANKSGIVING!